



LARGEST

WEEKLY CIRCULATION

IN CHICAGO.

NOTICE.

The Eagle can be ordered at Chas. Macdonald & Co.'s literary emporium and book store, 55 Washington street, L. H. Jackson's wholesale and retail cigar store, 105 Washington street, and at all first-class news stands throughout the West.

A NEW CITY CHARTER.

Almost everybody admits that the present city charter is inadequate for the needs of a metropolis like Chicago. The Civic Federation has drawn up a new city charter bill, which, it is likely, the next Legislature will pass.

The main objects aimed at in the proposed city charter bill are to provide for a separation of executive and legislative functions; to give to the administration more harmonious action and greater continuity; and to properly protect the interests of the public in the public property.

Its principal provisions cover these points:

First. The Council selects its own president and stands independent of the Mayor, who can not preside and has no vote in any event. The aldermen are to be elected on the minority representation plan, thirty-six from wards or districts and twelve on general ticket, one-half each year. They are to be paid a salary of \$2,500 per annum.

Second. The Mayor's term of office is lengthened to four (4) years and he is made ineligible as his own successor. He has a seat in the Council, with the right to debate, but no vote. He appoints heads of departments without the consent of the council. In case of vacancy in the office of Mayor the council does not fill it, but the office devolves on the heads of the executive departments in a designated order of succession until the next municipal election.

Third. The administration is vested in five great executive departments, whose heads are appointed and are removable by the Mayor.

These are: Department of Accounts and Collectors under the City Comptroller.

Department of Finance under the City Treasurer.

Department of Public Works under the Commissioner of Public Works.

Department of Law under the Corporation Counsel.

Department of Public Safety under the Commissioner of Public Safety. This department includes the police, fire and health departments and also sanitary and safety inspection.

Fourth. In all cases where special privileges, popularly called franchises, are granted, if competition is possible advertisement must be made for proposals; the proposed ordinance must be adopted by the Board of Control composed of the heads of departments and contain the terms and conditions on which such grant can be made; and after passage by the City Council, the Mayor still retains an absolute veto of the ordinance.

All materials and structures in, over, upon or under the street must belong to the city upon being put in place and the grantee obtains the privilege of use during the limited period for which the license is given and which is thirty years in case of elevated railroads, twenty years for surface street car lines and ten years for heat or power plants, electric lights, private switch tracks, etc., for such rental as the ordinance provides and on which the cost of construction is to be credited.

IMPROVE MADISON STREET!

West Madison street business men look with favor upon the proposition for a trolley line down that thoroughfare and across the bridge. That is, they favor such an idea, provided the line furnishes good and frequent service and gives transfers from all intersecting and connecting lines.

This question came up as a new issue at the meeting of the West Madison Street Business Men's Association, in the lodge-room of the Haymarket Theater Building, Wednesday afternoon. The present main effort of the

association is to get West Madison street from Jefferson to Centre avenue thoroughly cleaned. Substantial progress has been made in the matter of street improvement, but there are other matters which will be taken up in due time, and the trolley question is one of these. E. D. Ellis presided on Wednesday, and about fifty merchants of the region indicated were present.

The city authorities, stirred up by the meeting a week ago and by the labors of the committee then appointed, made some efforts Tuesday toward cleaning the street. Meanwhile, the owners and tenants of several blocks have a private contractor at work, and the asphalt on West Madison street is actually visible for some distance. Chairman Ellis, commenting on this, said the executive committee had seen Mayor Swift and Commissioner Kent, both of whom had told the same story about the city having very little money. However, they promised that West Madison street should be treated as well as the First ward. The street railway people had promised to remove the snow from their tracks hereafter, instead of piling it in the gutters and leaving it there.

The committee of the several blocks reported that a majority of the frontage would pay an assessment for street cleaning.

Seven bids for cleaning were opened, ranging from 2 1/2 cents to 8 cents per front foot. These bids were referred to a committee, consisting of E. D. Ellis, A. J. Graham (treasurer), John Berry, J. W. Gehrig and John C. Spay, with power to act.

The committee will determine which is the best bid and ask those interested to send their checks in advance to Treasurer Graham. In this way the funds will be on hand to pay for the work. Every man will be an inspector in front of his own store to see that the cleaning is properly done.

John M. Smyth said that the association had other objects than street cleaning. It was organized to promote and develop the best interests of West Madison street in every way. The interests of that street were the interests of the whole west division. The first thing to be done in order to have West Madison a great business street was to make it thoroughly clean. A good beginning had been made. The next thing was to have the transportation facilities the best possible. A trolley line on West Madison street had recently been suggested. The members of the association should be in a position to see that any such use of the street be to its best interests. Mr. Smyth drew a glorious picture of the future of West Madison street when the inevitable growth of Chicago compelled a further enlargement of the business district. He moved the appointment of a committee of five to consider the trolley question with relation to the further development of West Madison street, with power to act for the association, and having behind it the pledged and untiring strength of the business men interested.

Mr. Smyth's motion was adopted by acclamation. The committee appointed consisted of John M. Smyth, Walter T. Dwight, Hermann W. Stroker, Chas. F. Fessenden and John Berry.

WASH WILL NOT RUN.

It is with profound sorrow that we observe that Hon. Washington Hesling, our esteemed postmaster, will not be a candidate for Vice-President on the same ticket with Mr. Cleveland next fall. Mr. Cleveland is going to run on the Monroe doctrine plank of the platform, and Mr. Hesling doesn't believe in that plank. Here is what The Tribune quotes Mr. Hesling as saying upon the subject:

"I may be looked on as heretical, but I don't believe in all of this Monroe doctrine. I say we would be foolish to go to war on this subject. It is none of our business. If Britain, Guiana and Venezuela have a dispute let them fight it out between themselves. It is grossly unjust for us to say we will send down a commission to settle this thing and both must agree to our decision or fight. It isn't worth the powder that would be burned. And another thing, there won't be any war."

"You think the message a 'Jingo' message, then?"

Mr. Hesling cogitated, then spoke rather explosively:

"No—no—I should not say a 'Jingo' message. No—but—" and Mr. Hesling relapsed into silence.

CHICAGO'S OFFICIAL DOG THIEVES

Is it not about time that the city of Chicago abolished its dog stealing department?

It is all right enough to tax dogs, but when they are licensed the animals ought to be exempt from confiscation.

The document for which every dog owner in Chicago pays \$2 bears upon its back a notice to the effect that the animal must be securely muzzled between the dates of June 1 and Sept. 30.

This is all right, too.

But licensed dogs are being taken up every day in midwinter by the official dog catchers, and the more valuable the dog the more certain its chances of capture. It is estimated that ten thousand valuable dogs have been thus unlawfully taken up by the city dog stealers. And it is an open secret that any one desiring to obtain a well-bred canine for a fair sum can be accommodated in the vicinity of the city dog pound.

An investigation into this matter by the City Council would unearth some truths that would put ordinary criminals to the blush.

A NICE EXAMPLE.

The court house elevators are used every day by thousands of people.

Yet they are never subjected to city inspection.

In other words, the city ordinance upon the subject of elevator inspection is a dead letter in the court house, although it is enforced in all other buildings in Chicago.

No one knows either the day or the hour when some horrible catastrophe will happen in the court building, and numbers of lives lost in the out-of-date, clumsy and dangerous elevators.

These elevators lead to the court rooms and are always overcrowded.

Why they have never been inspected is a mystery, but it is alleged that it is due to the pig-headedness of certain

county officials who refuse to allow the city inspectors to do their duty.

Building Commissioner Downey, who is an excellent public official, should make the county authorities obey the law, and upon their refusal to do so, should bring the matter promptly before the grand jury.

NO MORE PROMOTIONS FOR BRAVERY.

There will be no more promotions for bravery or efficiency either. In the police and fire departments of Chicago, thanks to the Civil Service "Reform" law.

Hereafter, the fireman who saves human life simply does a heroic deed, and takes his own life in his hands.

He can only be promoted by being able to answer the questions of the civil service dudes who now control the fire department appointments.

A policeman may be shot all to pieces fighting thieves or burglars or rioters. No promotion will reward him for bravery.

On the contrary, if his early education has been neglected, he must remain uneducated, at the foot of the ladder, while some skulking laggard, who has been better educated, goes to the top.

Civil service "reform" is a great thing—for injustice.

WELL DONE, OBSERVER.

The Eagle congratulates its wide-awake contemporary, the Observer, upon the handsome make-up and very improving character of its Christmas number.

Mr. John J. Felt is the able and energetic editor, and his co-laborers have our best wishes over their unequalled success.

HEALY IS RIGHT.

President Healy, of the County Board, has the sympathy of a majority of the people in his fight against the narrow-minded management of the training school for nurses in the County Hospital.

THE NICKELL FOR JANUARY.

One of the most absorbing stories we have ever read is "The Great White Diamond," by Max Pemberton, in the January Nickell Magazine. Though the heroes of the adventure are scoundrels and blacklegs, one cannot but follow their stratagems with thrilling interest and hope they may finally succeed in their \$100,000 job in spite of its dubious morality. As usual the Nickell has a large number of superb reproductions of famous paintings, of which the "Children's Ward in the Hospital" is truly pathetic. Raymond Blathway contributes an interesting "Talk with Jerome K. Jerome," accompanied by a portrait of the well-known author and his collection of favorite notes. He writes of the "Medicine Men," and also of the "Cyr and Olga Netherstole; Mildred Aldrich's claim is always interesting. To show their appreciation of the great strides which bicycling has made in popular favor, the publishers of this month devote a special department to that sport. Besides photographs of noted racers—Zimmerman, Sanger and Bald—there is some good advice about winter bicycle riding, tandems, brakes and so forth. Besides this, there are several other good short stories and editorials on timely topics, which altogether, make the January Nickell Magazine a veritable marvel when the price, 5 cents, is considered.

A conjecture is gaining credence that Lord Salisbury, in view of Secretary Olney's now famous July dispatch, will eventually propose a virtual partnership between the United States and Great Britain for the government of the lower half of the American continent. It will be remembered that one of the subtleties put forth at the time the Olney dispatch came to public knowledge was that Great Britain was an American power before the United States existed, and that, as she was anterior, she would continue to be paramount where she already enjoyed territorial sovereignty. The Monroe doctrine impugns no right, territorial or other, possessed by Great Britain on this continent prior to the foundation of this government. Great Britain is entitled to everything that belongs to her. She is entitled to that without any partnership with the United States. The Monroe doctrine has no bearing on her lawful possessions. "No entangling alliances," a phrase originally used in reference to European relations, has lost none of its force to-day in the direction of its origin. It is, however, equally forcible and equally conclusive as to partnership or alliance with any non-archival power on this continent. At the time the Monroe doctrine was growing strong in its infancy it was proposed to this government to join certain European monarchies for the purpose of controlling the destiny of a portion of America not attached then or now to the United States, although near its southeastern Atlantic shore. The proposal of a partnership with European crowns was refused then, when this government was feeble. It was refused solely on the ground of principle. That principle is equally vital to-day, when this government is strong. There can be no partnership between the republic of the United States of America and any monarchy for the accomplishment of any purpose. A blunt refusal by Great Britain to recognize the efficacy of the Monroe doctrine will be less offensive to the American people than a proposal to enter into a partnership with them for its enforcement.

There is just now quite a run on storage batteries for central station work, and station superintendents give extraordinary reports of their value. The batteries were primarily intended to help out the station at the time that the greatest amount of current was needed. Storage plants were formerly used for this maximum load service, but it is now found that batteries of the same capacity come much cheaper. The reason for this is that they are ready for use at all times, and, as they can be switched on during the one or two hours of the maximum load, they do away with the necessity of running a steam plant too hard at any time. Sunday, when the output is small, they come in most handy, as they carry the

entire load, thus saving much labor. Another advantage is the saving in wear and tear of the engines and dynamos by the evening up of the load. This is a point of great importance. As the battery current is always available, it is never necessary to force the machines, which can run easily all the time at never more than three-fourths of their capacity. This gives a saving which much more than counter-balances the cost of the battery current. At one large station the records show conclusively that the batteries having only 75 per cent. efficiency, the actual cost of the coal used is less than it would have been if the batteries had not been installed. The company has therefore been reaping all the advantages of the service, and providing effectively for all the exigencies of the maximum load for much less than a steam plant would cost them. More than once, when the station has more, the batteries have satisfactorily furnished the current for the whole system. The makers of the batteries evidently have the utmost confidence in their quality and efficiency. They undertake to insure and keep in repair the whole plant at 4 per cent. per annum of the original cost.

The suicide of Mr. Peter McGeech, the great Milwaukee speculator, was undoubtedly a result of what is so often and so politely referred to as "the high pressure of American business." Mr. McGeech had lived under this pressure for years before collapsing. He was long one of the most envied of Western "financiers." His operations on the Chicago Board of Trade were on a magnificent scale. When he lost half a million in wheat public admiration for his "nerve" was not misplaced, as he showed when, after subsequently losing three millions in attempting a corner in lard, he again attacked the market and won the fortune which "put him abreast even of Armour as a produce operator." This was his status when he blew out his brains. Admired by thousands, considered by his competitors a marvel of business sagacity, envied by those who were unable to imitate him, he "laid down on his back" and retired from business in a way which can surprise no one who knows what his business was in its essential realities. Essentially the life he had been leading was that of a gambler. His operations had no more to do with real business than if he had been dealing faro or playing three-card monte. He produced nothing, distributed nothing. All his operations were "in restraint of trade"—that is to say, they hindered the exchange of products by which hunger is fed and industry clothed. Every dollar of his winnings was the result of a mere bet on the success or failure of attempts to suspend the natural laws of trade. His "tremendous nerve" failed at last, and the high pressure of business claimed one more victim.

The Manufacturers' Record publishes some statements of fact which are of especial interest in view of the movement to establish closer commercial relations between the West and South. More than 90 per cent. of the world's cotton is raised in the Southern States, yet the cotton crop of that section is exceeded in value by its grain crops, which aggregate about 650 million bushels per year. More than half of all the standing timber in the United States is in the South, and iron ore and coal are in unlimited supply, while nearly every Southern State has an abundance of good water-power to supplement the advantages of cheap fuel. From 1880 to the close of 1894 the cotton manufacturing industry in the South more than doubled, and the capital invested in it was increased about five times. The consumption of Southern cotton mills is at the rate of about a million bales of cotton per year, which is half that of the mills in the Northern States. The South has three million cotton spindles out of a total of eighty-five millions in the world, and expects to add 800,000 more within the next twelve months. "The room for expansion is almost without limit."

The unreliable character of news from Cuba is illustrated almost daily. Skirmishes are magnified into battles, signal victories turn out to be unimportant encounters, and so it goes. Much of this grows out of the fact that neither the Spaniards nor the insurgents seem to be able to hit each other. More than once it has occurred that after a great Spanish victory has been announced the news will come that two or three persons were killed by them and perhaps half a dozen injured. The statement of Winston Churchill, an English officer, shows that the insurgents are no better marksmen than the Spaniards. He says it appeared to him that tons of lead poured over the heads of the staff of Gen. Valdez, with whom he rode, the General himself being a conspicuous figure upon a white horse. Yet under such ridiculous circumstances as these reports of Spanish victories come daily. And yet the rebels hold two-thirds of the island, and Spain is continually sending more men. The only thing that seems certain about this war is that some one is doing the tallest kind of lying.

A curious, and to many puzzling, situation is presented by the election of Spain to act as arbiter in the controversy between Colombia, Ecuador and Peru as to their respective boundary lines. Spain's superior knowledge of the merits of any such discussion, through her former possession and archive records, must be evident; but the confidence evinced in the mother country is as remarkable as it is excellent. But is it confidence in Spain as an impartial judge of what was once a Spanish colony? It is better to believe that we have in this an exhibition of the confidence of these South American republics in themselves, and their unflinching conviction that nothing can ever re-establish Spanish domination in any corner of the continent. Spain may some day be called upon by Cuba to settle in a friendly way some little dispute in which the island republic has become involved, but not for a generation or two, probably.

There is only one way to deal effectively with the tramp, and that is to set him to work. The jail has no terrors for him. It is, on the contrary, but a hotel in which he is sure of better food and lodging than he gets elsewhere, with the single drawback that he cannot leave when he wishes. The

only system that is successful in repressing the kind of vagrancy that develops in the professional tramp is the workhouse system. If this is properly managed it serves both as a punishment and a corrective for tramps and a place of relief for the needy and honest unfortunate who are unable to find employment.

A surprising discovery has lately been made in Amsterdam, Holland, of some very old maps made between 1705 and 1710, showing the regions in Central Africa which have in modern times been rediscovered by Livingston and Stanley. The maps are based on information furnished by Portuguese traders, and are surprisingly accurate. The course of the Congo river, under another name, is laid down. The maps are accompanied by writings giving information derived from the blacks of the great lakes which form the sources of the Nile, and which Livingston and Stanley called the Victoria Nyanza. All the modern discoveries were made by men who did not know that this territory had been to some extent explored and mapped nearly two centuries before. The Zambesi territory was before then known to the Portuguese in 1700 than it is to modern discoverers. They had considerable settlements at the mouth of the Zambesi river, but these were overthrown by wild hordes of blacks, and all trace of them has long since been lost.

In the Hannigan trial in New York recently, where a plea of insanity was put in for the defendant, who had shot his sister's seducer over the girl's dead body, an expert alienist called by the defense was about to be asked a hypothetical question that covered thirty-six typewritten pages and would take an hour and a half to read, but the judge would not permit the witness to answer it. Still, even as reduced, the question was an hour long, and the bored witness admitted that he did not hear the whole of it. That he could keep all the facts alleged in it in mind is impossible. The hypothetical question has its place in criminal trials, but ingenious lawyers should not be allowed to carry it to a ridiculous extreme.

There is often great loss of property, and sometimes of life, in the severe electrical storms that rage at certain times of the year in Russia. To protect the houses of the peasants, which are frequently struck by lightning, the Russian Government has recommended that the peasant be encouraged to plant white poplar trees around their dwellings, to act as lightning rods. This suggestion arose out of some investigations concerning the liability to lightning stroke of certain species of trees, made by a Russian electrician, and the Government Forest Inspector. They set 1000 trees in the great forests near Moscow, and of the 507 trees that during that time were struck by lightning they found 302 were white poplar, notwithstanding the fact that that species is comparatively rare.

George Gould is reported to have given public expression to the opinion that the public authority would be justified in saying more than it does about the charges made by railway companies. Although Mr. Gould's remarks had special reference to intraurban passenger traffic, they were of general application and were obviously intended to be. Mr. Gould takes the rather sensible view that the proper thing for government to do is not to tax the companies on their earnings, but to give the public the benefit of lower fares. People are as much astonished to hear the son of the late Jay Gould talking in this fashion as we see Saul among the prophets.

That portion of the message of Gov. O'Ferrall to the Virginia Legislature which recommends legislation for the extermination of race track gambling and in which he stigmatizes the prostitution of the turf to the enrichment of the bookmakers and thugs as a shame and a disgrace to Virginia, has in it the ring of manly courage. It will evoke hearty responses of commendation from the true lovers of horsemanship in the North who are struggling to rescue the trotting associations and fair grounds from the domination of the gambling fraternity. The race track gambler is gone from Illinois. In time he will have to quit the country.

The United States' Life Saving Service, like the Postoffice Department, is one of those institutions that performs its duties with the highest efficiency and fidelity. Last year the Government life-savers rescued 5,382 persons and saved property valued at \$9,145,083. The total number of lives saved since 1871 is 67,258, which is about the strength of the Union army at Gettysburg.

There is a movement all over the world to build railroads. Japan, as everybody knows, is spending millions. India has big roads to build. Even little Siam has scratched up \$5,000,000 for railroad material and warlike stores. African schemes are filling the English mind with the promises of great gain. New schemes are coming up in South America.

Northern Alabama is rapidly becoming a great coal and iron center. Its coal is being sold all through the South, is shipped to New Orleans and sold to ship companies, is used on nearly all the railroads. Its iron is sold all over the South and the Northwest, and the furnaces have all they can do for months ahead.

In this country the deaths from lightning average 225 a year, and the loss of property from the same cause is \$1,550,000 a year. The chance of being killed by lightning during the season is about one in 180,000, but this does not greatly lessen the sense of danger when a nimbus cloud looms up and forked flashes play around the neighborhood.

Engineers are making wonderful progress. They are now super-heating steam up to 800 degrees to get more power out of it. Wonderful results are expected from the general adoption of such extraordinary super-heating.

The most obnoxious feature about the "sick man of Europe" is that his malady always threatens to become contagious among his neighbors.



HON. JACOB M. HORN,
West Town Assessor.

The subject of our sketch, Mr. Jacob M. Horn, has made a record for himself for being one of the hardest and most zealous workers ever elected to the office of West Town Assessor. He was always to be found at his desk, with open doors for all, and the only enemies he made were a lot of wealthy

tax-dodgers, whom he unearthed and published a list of at the time. The qualities that have characterized his success as a business man add credit and mark the splendid capacity and executive ability of a man worthy in every respect the implicit confidence of the people who last year elected him to office.

The result of Great Britain's peremptory demand upon the Chinese Government is a signal illustration of the potency of threats of force when directed against the Oriental empire. The British powers, after waiting for the due consideration of their request for redress of the Chinese outrages, collected their warships within ominous easy reach of the Chinese ports, and announced that, unless their terms were immediately complied with, a "demonstration" would be made on China's coast. The response to this demand was almost immediate. The Chinese practically to all the demands of Great Britain and offers promptly to degrade Viceroy Lu and punish the perpetrators of the outrages. Lu is one of the adornments of the vicious system of officialism which comprises China's governing power. Like the other potentates who, under the Imperial government, have control of the different provinces of China, he governs his district without much sense of accountability to any one. The weak Imperial government is powerless to maintain anything like official decency and order in its various subordinate states, and Lin, it seems, is but one of the worst of these offenders. He stands for a type of Chinese official corruption, and that he is in league with the worst elements in Chinese society seems to be unquestioned. That the Imperial authorities have been stirred up to take action in his case and degrade him is the best proof of the wholesome effectiveness of the drastic measures taken by Great Britain. So long as there was a chance that Great Britain would content to parley and in which the Manchurian rulers were quite indifferent whether those responsible for the outrages were punished or not. It was the sign of an intention to use physical force, if need be, that called them to terms.

The death of George Augustus Sala removed a unique and brilliant personality from the world of literature and journalism. He was pre-eminently a self-made man, coming up out of poverty, and eventually becoming a man of the world of extraordinary and varied accomplishments. He began life in an atmosphere of art, his mother having been a musician and actress of considerable reputation. His earlier tastes inclined him to the profession of art. During his youth he had experience as a miniature painter, scene painter, modeler and designer, etcher, engraver and illustrator of books. It may have been in the latter capacity that he was induced to turn his attention to literature. In any event, he soon began fugitive literary work, writing special articles for newspapers and magazines, which at last attracted attention and led to his association with Dickens in the Household Words, afterwards with Thackeray in the Cornhill Magazine, and subsequently in his editorship of Temple Bar. His success also made for him a permanent place as a newspaper correspondent, in which capacity he gained a reputation that was world-wide, and an acquaintance with all the prominent men of his time. During his career he also found time to write some books, but they do not compare in interest with his correspondence and short sketches for periodicals. He had a knowledge of the world, keenness of observation, an artistic temperament, a light touch, and a brilliancy of style which admirably fitted him for work of this kind, and in it few of his contemporaries excelled him. He began life, as already said, in the direst poverty, but for many years he had commanded his own price for his work.

Lieutenant General Schofield, who retired from the command of the army recently, is the last of the war generals. His distinction was achieved in one of the latest battles of the civil war—the battle of Franklin—and now he leaves no successor whose part in that great war was more than that of an under officer. Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Schofield! With these names the history of the civil war concludes, and hereafter the commanders of the army will be men who bore but a subordinate part in it. These facts show how remote that great war is, even to those who had some part in it. A few more

years and all that vast army will have passed away, and history will begin to adjust the relation of events. When the next change in the head of the army occurs, in 1903, there will scarcely be even a subordinate left who took any part, none certainly that took a distinguished part. In the civil war, General Schofield retires carrying with him the best wishes of his countrymen. During the war he showed himself to be a great soldier, equal to every emergency, and always holding a place of distinction wherever duty called him. His rank is with the greatest of American warriors, and he will long be remembered as one who fought gallantly for the flag of the Union.

According to recent reports from England spinners have been succeeded in experiments with ramie that may have an important bearing on the spinning industry of the world. One leading company has been engaged during the last year in treating ramie and spinning the product into yarn, which was sold in the open market at a satisfactory profit. It is believed that ramie is destined to play an important part in linen and hemp manufactures. It is admirably adapted for the manufacture of cordage, bagging, sail canvas and other fabrics liable to exposure to the elements. Its strength of resistance is twice that of hemp. By a peculiar process ramie is given the aspect and texture of wool, but as a fabric it gives coolness instead of warmth. Manufacturers insist that it cannot supersede wool, but will in time take the place of cotton in the warp of mixed fabrics. In the manufacture of silk it can be used to great advantage, as it is very similar to that material in texture, luster and in fineness of fiber. It is also said to have replaced the costly line cotton thread used in the various products of Lyons, France, which have to undergo an expensive treatment in order to acquire a high lustre. There seems little doubt that it will eventually replace cotton thread. The development of ramie has been much retarded by the lack of suitable machinery to work it. The agriculturists of the Southern States have for the last ten years been trying to diversify their products by the cultivation of ramie, and good results have been obtained. The agitation over ramie in England will, no doubt, bring about a greater production in this country.

The seeker after an "undiscovered country" does not need to go to Dark-est Africa. There are, it is known, vast spaces of the North American continent which have never been penetrated by the white man's foot, or if any exploration has been made no record remains. The Canadian Geological Survey within a year has entered upon a region hundreds of square miles in extent, of which all past maps have been conjectural, the streams laid down being imaginary. This country, so far from being a desert, is a timbered region, valuable if opened to transportation, and capable of producing wheat. He who would build his lodge in a vast wilderness can find a location a long way this side of the pole or the equator.

A movement is going forward in Philadelphia to restore Independence Square to its condition of a hundred years ago, and through a recent act of the Legislature the city is at liberty to proceed with the work. This will require the removal of some costly buildings that have been permitted to intrude on the historic square, but the citizens, almost without exception, favor their condemnation. When the famous Independence Hall and its surroundings look just as they did when the Declaration was signed, public opinion will protect them from any further encroachment as long as the republic stands.

We regret to learn that since Barney Barnato, the London Kaffir king, has a wife and several children, it will be impossible for any American girl to annex him at present.

Sicily is burdened with an overproduction of brimstone. Sicily should reach out for the markets of the world—particularly the next world.